

ART. XXI.—*The Principles and Practice of Obstetrics*. By GUNNING S. BEDFORD, A. M., M. D., *Professor of Obstetrics, the Diseases of Women and Children, and Clinical Obstetrics in the University of New York, etc. etc.* Third edition, carefully revised and enlarged. New York, 1863. 8vo. pp. 743. William Wood & Co.

THE volume before us claims to be a third edition, revised and enlarged, of Dr. Bedford's lectures on the principles and practice of obstetrics. After a very careful examination of it, however, we have not been able to detect any material difference between it and the preceding editions. It appears to us to be simply a reprint of those, with an additional chapter (Lecture xlv.) on the pathology and treatment of phlegmasia dolens, of which disease in the previous editions no account had been given.

There seems to us to be, in this practice of announcing as a new edition each successive impression of a work, however small in number, taken from the same stereotype plates, an appearance of deception which is to be deprecated. Such a course may be required to bolster up the character of some work of doubtful value, by leading the public to believe that the demand for it has been greater than it actually was. No such deceit, we feel assured, is called for in the case of a professional treatise of the high character of the one before us. The success of such a work as that of Dr. Bedford, it seems to us, may be very confidently trusted to its own merits.

We feel no way inclined to modify in the slightest degree the verdict we gave in favour of these lectures of Dr. Bedford upon their first appearance in print. A more intimate acquaintance with them, acquired in a careful re-examination of the manner in which their author has handled the several questions embraced in his subject, has convinced us of their reliability as a guide to the study of midwifery in all its details, as well from the general accuracy as from the clearness and precision of their teachings.

We cannot, it is true, fully coincide with the lecturer in all his views, theoretical or practical; but the points upon which we differ from him are in the main open questions, in relation to which individual experience and convictions will necessarily lead to differences of opinion, until a more extended and decisive series of observations shall warrant one or other party to dogmatize in respect to them.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXII.—*First Outlines of a Dictionary of the Solubility of Chemical Substances*. By FRANK H. STORER. Part I. Cambridge, Mass., Sever & Francis. 8vo. pp. 232.

MR. STORER is well known to chemists by the numerous original investigations which he has made and published, and which have been extensively reprinted in the German, English and French chemical journals. In the present work, he has undertaken to collect and classify all the facts scattered through the vast domain of chemical literature which bear upon the relations that exist between chemical substances and their solvents. The labour requisite for the conscientious performance of such a task has been necessarily immense, and will be fully appreciated by the chemical world.

Mr. Storer takes the term "solubility" in its extended sense, including the reactions of liquids upon solids, gases, and upon other liquids. He also embraces, as far as determined by observers, the influence which one substance in a state of solution exerts upon the subsequent solution of other substances in the same medium. The extent and variety of the information which he has collected on these points, will relieve the chemist from long and troublesome

searches through successive treatises. It will have another still more useful effect. Bringing together the various statements which have been made by different observers, any one consulting Mr. Storer's dictionary is enabled to ascertain whether these statements are concurrent, and therefore probably exact, or discordant, and therefore liable to doubt. In a word, the inquirer has placed before him the best information which has been published on each particular point, and is placed in a position either to conclude that the statements are reliable, or to perceive that he must determine for himself the question which occupies him. Another advantage of this dictionary consists in its bringing together a very complete synonymy, and in glancing over it, one is forcibly struck by the carelessness which has led chemists to use names already pre-occupied, often to a most perplexing extent. For example; there are three different substances to which the name of Camphene has been affixed, all by French chemists, and one with the very similar name of Camphin. The word Benzoin belongs to three substances; and other instances might be cited. Mr. Storer's work might be advantageously consulted by investigators before adopting names for new substances, in order to assure themselves that the proposed word has the requisite novelty.

A dictionary of this sort is so necessary, that, as in many similar cases, when the work is done, we are surprised that the need was not perceived and supplied before. It has been a great mistake in chemical works that too much has been attempted, too wide a scope chosen, so that even with the most herculean efforts, completeness has not been attained. Books have been written, intended to embrace as far as possible, the sum of chemical knowledge, and the result has been, that the first portions have become antiquated before the work was completed. Gmelin's Chemistry, especially the Cavendish Edition, is a truly wonderful work, but it is still unfinished, while the first volume (Physical Chemistry), which appeared in 1848, is quite out of date. Poggendorff's Handwörterbuch has now reached the letter S, and already the first part has had to be completely re-written, to the extent of four large octavos, as a second edition of the first portion of a work still far from complete. And this, although the book is not the production of any single hand, but the result of the coöperation of many labourers in the field. It seems, therefore, desirable that chemical science should be subdivided into as many specialties as possible. In this direction we regard Mr. Storer's publication as a most valuable step. In the present state of the science we want monographs. Some such have been attempted. Rose's works on Analysis were admirable examples. Hoffmann published a monograph on Compound Ammonias, now unfortunately wholly out of print. Hartung-Schwartzkopf has given us a monograph on the organic alkaloids. Others might be cited, and we hope the number will be multiplied.

One pressing need at the present time is a really complete work on qualitative reactions. Rose has done much in this direction, but his book is now far behind the needs of the science of the day, and can only be considered as elementary. He has restricted himself to a limited number of reactions for each substance, selecting of course the most important, and has discussed them in 712 pages of rather large print. A thorough collection of all the known facts would fill two or three times as much space, and be of immense value. It should be subdivided into an organic and an inorganic portion, which might constitute separate works.

The first part of Mr. Storer's work before us contains 232 double column pages of close but clear type, and extends to the word "convolvulinol." We hope the rest of the work may speedily follow.

M. C. L.